#13 「Shangri-La」

THERE'S NOBODY HERE.
I CAME HERE AGAIN....
IT'S JUST ME...
AND HER.

WHY AM I SO STRONGLY ATTRACTED TO "HER"?
WHAT STATE OF MIND COULD CAUSE ANOTHER HUMAN BEING TO DO SOMETHING OF THIS EXTENT TO HER?
THIS PLACE IS LIKE A BONA FIDE CORPSE'S PARTY.
THERE ARE TONS OF OTHER CORPSES
AND YET...
I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHERE DID THIS CORPSE COME FROM,
SO WHY...?

TELL ME.
WHO ARE YOU?
FLASH

"....UMM, SHIGE-NII"
IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE?
The Barber
21:5
BEEP BEEP BEEP
TODAY AT MHK'S EDUCATIONAL NETWORK "THE BARBER OF SEVILLE" IS AIRING...
COULD YOU PLEASE RECORD IT FOR ME?
THE TV IN MY HOUSE IS IN A BAD CONDI-TION...
I WONDER, DOES SOMEONE ELSE BESIDE ME KNEW ABOUT THAT SIDE OF HER?
... IT CAN'T BE HELPED. HURRY UP AND GET IT FIXED.
MAYU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ZEALOUS WHEN IT COMES TO PLAYS AND THEATERS.

I HAVE TO PROTECT YOU.
THE BRIGHT MAYU WHO IS LOVED BY EVERYONE.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER MUCH ANY-MORE...
IF I TRANS-FER...
THE ONE WHO KNOWS HER WEAK SIDE
IS ONLY ME.
I NEED TO... LOOK FOR MAYU...
SHE'S LOST WITHOUT ME...

Seriously, what's with this school?
Someone had died again...
.... Mayu?
.....
At least
I can't let Mayu be all by herself in this kind of place!
It's better if she's with Yui-sensei or Mochida...

TO RIP A HUMAN'S SPINAL CORD INTO TWO LIKE THIS
AS IF IT'S CUT WITH JAPANESE SWORD...
THIS CAN'T BE DONE UNLESS YOU USE THE STRENGTH OF SOME MACHINE...
... BUT THIS IS TERRIBLE...
.....
HOW ODD...
EVEN IF THERE'S A HUMAN CORPSE IN FRONT OF ME, I DON'T FEEL DISGUSTED AT ALL!
DID I BECOME PARALYZED BECAUSE OF FEAR?
SHE'S PRETTY, BUT... IN A WHILE, EVEN HER FACE WOULD ROT.
NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO SEE IT ANYMORE...
?.....
THIS CORPSE... IS STRANGE.

CUT OUT AND TAKEN AWAY?
WAS HER TONGUE...
INSIDE OF HER MOUTH... THERE'S NO TONGUE.
A CRAZY MURDERER.
THE SO-CALLED PSYCHO KILLER...
IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE MANY CASES WHERE THEY TEND TO TAKE AWAY SOUVENIRS AFTER COMMITING HOMICIDE...
...TSK..!
TO THINK THAT A PERVERT WHO DID THIS KIND OF THING IS WANDERING AROUND
MAKES ME WORRY EVEN MORE ABOUT MAYU...!

!?
I THOUGHT THERE'S A CLUE SOMEWHERE...
... NOTHING.
I HEARD YOU SAYING SOMETHING.
I, IS THAT SO... SORRY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
YOU...

I'M TAGUCHI SHOUGO. AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M A CAMERAMAN.
I CAME HERE TO COLLECT DATA, BUT I WAS SEPARATED WITH THE PROFESSOR I CAME WITH AND WAS STARTING TO GET FATIGUED...
ERR, YOU ARE...?
.....
I'M... MORI-SHIGE
.... IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE GOTTEN LOST IN HERE
FOR NOW, I'M LOOKING FOR MY FRIEND.... A GIRL CALLED SUZUMOTO MAYU
HMMM... SUZUMO-TO....
SUZU-MOTO... HUH...
UM,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

PICTURES OF BODIES? WHAT'S WITH THIS PERSON...
I WONDERED IF I'VE TAKEN A PICTURE OF HER...
JUST IN CASE, I TOOK PICTURES OF THE VICTIMS' BODIES.
IN A WAY THAT THEY CAN BE IDENTIFIED, ALONG WITH SOMETHING LIKE THEIR NAMEPLATES.
DON'T BE ABSURD!!
MAYU... IS AL-RIGHT!!
.... PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH STUPID THING!!

IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NO PICTURE OF A CORPSE LIKE SUZUMOTO-SAN.
AH...
I'M SORRY... DON'T WORRY.
WE FINALLY GET TO MEET ANOTHER LIVING BEING IN THIS KIND OF PLACE.
HOW ABOUT GOING TOGETHER?
ANYWAY, HOW ABOUT THIS?
.... THANKS FOR THE OFFER, BUT...
I'LL LOOK BY MYSELF FOR A BIT MORE.
IS THAT SO...
WHO WOULD WANT TO ACCOMPANY SOMEONE LIKE YOU?

THEN, HOW ABOUT MEETING UP AGAIN LATER?
YOU'D WANT TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AT LEAST, RIGHT?
.... IF YOU SAY SO
THEN OKAY.
OK! IT'S BEEN DECIDED.
WELL THEN, LET'S MEET UP IN AN HOUR.
... I'LL LOOK IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
.....

!
THE OTHER WAY IS ALSO A SCHOOL BUILDING....?
IT SEEMS LIKE WE CAN ESCAPE FROM HERE, BUT
WE'RE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS, HUH...
IT'S HARD TO GO TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.
LOOKING FOR MAYU IS TOP PRIORITY.
BUT FOR NOW

MAYU ....!
THE ATMOSPHERE ON THIS SCHOOL BUILDING IS HEAVY...
CAN YOU HEAR ME....?
MAYUU!!
KYAH..?!

MIT-
SUKI!
SO,
SORRY!
ARE YOU
HURT?
AH
YES.
... I'M
SORRY,
TOO.
I'M
OKAY.
BYAKUDAN HIGH SCHOOL
2ND YEAR CLASS 4
YAMAMOTO MITSUKI
[STUDENT COUNCIL
SECRETARY]

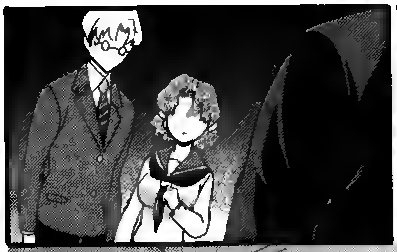
I'M SORRY.
NO, I...
I WAS ALSO LOOKING AWAY...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU CHARGED IN WITHOUT THINKING THAT THIS HAPPENED.
YOU'RE A STUDENT FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL, RIGHT? ARE YOU ALONE?
I'M MORISHIGE SAKUTAROU, A SECOND YEAR FROM KISARAGI ACADEMY.
BYAKUOAN HIGH SCHOOL
2NO YEAR CLASS 4
FUKUROI MASATO
STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT
I'M YAMAMOTO MITSUKI. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M FUKUROI MASATO, A SECOND YEAR FROM BYAKUDAN HIGH SCHOOL. AND SHE IS...
IF YOU'RE A SECOND YEAR, THEN IT'S THE SAME AS US.
... THOUGH IN THE FIRST PLACE, IF SOMEONE COULD BE CHEERFUL HERE, IT'LL BE CREEPY...
EH ...?
WELL, YOU LOOKED DOWN...
.....
DID SOMETHING HAPPENED? MORISHIGE-KUN?

NO... I'M NOT REALLY DOWN.
I'M JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
MORISHIGE-KUN, TOO?
WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE SEPARATED FROM US.
.... IT'S GOOD IF NOTHING HAPPENS TO THAT KUROSAKI....
"PLEASE WAIT THERE, MITSUKI-SAN!"
"MEANWHILE, I'LL GO LOOK FOR THE OTHERS."
DON'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT, MITSUKI.
IF IT'S KENSUKE, HE'LL DEFINITELY BE OKAY.
THOUGH I'D BE RELIEVED IF EVERYONE ELSE CAN MEET UP WITH KIZAMI...
THAT'S RIGHT. IF KIZAMI'S WITH THEM... EVEN GHOSTS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SCARE THEM.

SUZU-MOTO... SAN...
AH
THESE TWO...
HOW COULD THEY TRUST SOMEONE TO THAT EXTENT?
WHO IS IT THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
I'M LOOKING FOR A CLASS-MATE. A GIRL CALLED SUZU-MOTO MAYU.
SHE'S A PETITE AND CHEERFUL GIRL.
MIGHT SHE BE
生徒証明書
学年 2学年9組
氏名 鈴本繭
THIS GIRL?
!?

IS MAYU SAFE!?
THIS... WHERE DID YOU...?!
WHERE IS MAYU?!
WAH ....
MORISHIGE-KUN...
THERE WAS NOBODY NEARBY, THOUGH.
WE PICKED IT UP IN THE MAIN BUILDING.
.....

JUST BY YOURSELF? WON'T THAT BE DANGEROUS?
I'LL LOOK FOR HER BY MYSELF.
IT'S OKAY. IF HER STUDENT CARD FELL THERE, IT MEANS SHE'D BE SOMEWHERE IN THE PREMISES.
... I'M SORRY I'M NOT HELPFUL.



IS THAT SO... BE CAREFUL, MORISHIGE-KUN.
... I ALSO HAVE A PROMISE TO MEET UP WITH SOMEONE.

MAYU IS IN THE MAIN BUILDING...

THIS SINGING VOICE... THERE'S NO DOUBT...!
IT'S MAYU'S VOICE!
MAYUU !!
WHERE ARE YOU, MAYU!?
MAYU ?

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